

MEETING MINUTES
PIRATE HARBOR STREET & DRAINAGE UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 11, 2014 – Regular Meeting
10:00 A.M. – Public Works Conference Room

Attendees: Dennis McCulloch, Lester Patzer, George Taylor and LeRoi Yaffey

Absent: Homer Fleming (excused) and John Hynes (excused)

County: Mike Dallenbach, Dawn Harrison, Francine Lisby, and Sandy Wright

Guests: Sign-in sheet attached

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. A roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

The meeting notes from September 23, 2014 were unanimously approved as written.

Citizen Input on Agenda Items Only (3 Minute Limit)

- Mr. Travers stated he has read the minutes of past meetings and can't believe the Committee tried to do this project as they did. He saw Pirate Harbor split up over dredging years ago and doesn't want to see it split over flowers. This committee is for streets and drainage and he doesn't agree with flowers. People should be able to read the sign. This doesn't need to be this expensive. He asked the committee to slow down, step back and rethink this; there is a way to get this done less expensively.
- Mr. Blackwell echoed what Mr. Travers said. He has reviewed past minutes. This committee has spent \$25,000 for a picture and drawing. Notices there is \$75,000 dedicated to the work plan and hopes it involves more than this. He stated his displeasure in the way the sewers were handled and stated he didn't receive a ballot for this subject. Not opposed to an attractive gateway at the front entrance but believes it can be done in a more cautious less expensive way.
- Mr. Taylor stated he believes the cart has been placed in front of the horse. This committee is very interested in the community and he has been on this board for several years.
- Mr. Herl stated he dittos Mr. Blackwell's comments and stated he has never been notified of meetings.
- Mr. Pears stated he agrees with each person that spoke and he said it is important that the citizens get the opportunity to speak. He would like to come up with a plan but stated the facts are collecting \$133 for 5 years creates a large pot. He plans to leave his house to his children and doesn't want to burden them with increases each year. He reviewed minutes and they are ridiculous. He stated tricking the citizens is not a good thing and stated nobody knew anything about this plan.
- Mr. Taylor stated that the statement in the minutes that say this is almost free came from an interested party and not a member of this Committee.
- Mr. Lulves asked where these citizens were 6-12 months ago. He stated this project has been being talked about for a long time and people should attend the meetings if they want to provide input.

Unfinished Business:

- Survey Mailing – Mr. Taylor stated the results of the mailing so far are 103 yes votes and 113 no votes for a total of 216 returned votes and suggested the Committee discuss it. The voting deadline on the card was November 30, 2014. There are approximately 100 that haven't been returned. The deadline has passed. Ms. Harrison gave the breakdown; there were 71 occupied owners that voted no, 42 vacant owners voted no, 66 occupied owners voted yes and 37 vacant owners voted yes. Ms. Harrison stated the packets were mailed to the owners on record and said there was no way to mail to citizens with confidential mailing information. Ballots were sent to everybody that called stating they didn't get a card. There was discussion regarding talking about the front entrance at the next HOA meeting; however there won't be enough time for an alternate plan developed by the community to go to the BCC for approval. There was extensive discussion regarding coming up with a scaled back less expensive plan. This plan is only an estimate and has not been put out to bid therefore the actual cost may not be as high. Many residents were concerned about spending \$25,000 and there needs to be an alternative plan that would cost less. Two factors drove the no votes; people think it is too grand and others that said they could do this on their own.

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Mr. Taylor said he doesn't know where the funding will come from and that irrigation would have to be taken into consideration and stated citizens could put it in then asked who would be responsible for water and electric bills. Ms. Harrison stated that the amount that Pirate Harbor collects annually could be spent on one drainage pipe replacement; a rate increase will happen regardless of this project being approved; however if the plan is not approved, the committee will not be allowed another rate increase for 2 years. Mr. Pears stated there are residents that would be happy with no sign at all and he feels there would have been more yes votes if the project was scaled back. The BCC will meet in March to discuss the MSBU's that are going to have rate increases. Time is short and there would not be enough time for another mailing to be sent out. The next HOA meeting scheduled for February which is too late. Mr. Herl stated the information needs to get out to the citizens; that past dealings over the sewers has caused contention with citizens. He thinks another vote would be a waste of money. He believes another company may be able to do the project for less money. Without a true plan in hand, he feels it would be a waste of time and money. There was extensive discussion regarding a volunteer community group doing the work and maintenance. The weight of the votes was discussed. The votes are counted one vote for each owner. A citizen owning 6 lots only gets 1 vote. There was discussion regarding the rumors. Ms. Doremus spoke about people talking about putting their own private funds together to do the project. Ms. Harrison explained that projects can be done in the community; however anything installed in the right-of-way would have to be permitted and approved by the county. Creating a subcommittee was suggested to come up with an alternate plan. A plan and sign design would be helpful in generating more yes votes so citizens can see what they are paying for. There was discussion regarding a community bulletin board to announce upcoming meetings. Ms. Taylor stated the street and drainage committee didn't put this plan together as citizens think. The association sent out a mailing asking for volunteers to work on the front. A beautification committee was formed and thought the residents were going to like this. This is a concept that was created by the beautification committee, not the County or the Committee. This should not be compared to the sewer project. Mr. Taylor agreed to work with Ms. Harrison to get some bids and to possibly scale back the linear plan to cut costs. Ms. Doremus asked Mr. Pears to share the input he received when he talked with citizens to get an idea of what the citizens would like. Mr. Pears stated that approximately 30% of the no voters he talked to didn't want anything at all. Some would like to have it done within the community. He thinks a majority of the vote would be received by scaling the project back. There was discussion regarding collecting money voluntarily from the citizens; those contributing would get a say in an alternate plan. It was suggested to let the volunteers submit a plan to the county for approval and let them do an alternate project with funds collected by the community. Mr. Patzer made a motion that the votes are in and the project failed to be approved, to let the community volunteers try to come up with an alternate plan; there was further discussion regarding the HOA getting involved. How meetings are advertised was discussed. Mr. Taylor commented that if this motion is approved he feels the project won't be done. He thinks getting more cost information then another mailing may be warranted. Planning could begin right away. The MSBU doesn't want to get out of this plan. There was discussion regarding signs and the changed ordinance that states signs must be monument signs. Mr. Pears stated if he has time will contact the individuals that voted no originally, to present a plan that is developed. Ms. Doremus stated she thinks that scrapping the work that the committee has done so far is not good; it would be better for everybody in the community to pay for the project instead of everybody benefiting from the work and funding from a few. It was suggested to accept the no votes and put an end to this project and to start over on another plan. Mr. Patzer amended his motion to accept the results as they are; the motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor and passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Financials – Financial reports were distributed for review and discussion. There was discussion regarding the date not appearing on the reports. Ms. Lisby will follow up.

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Open Discussion and Citizen Input on MSBU Related Items Only (5 Minute Limit)

- Mr. Pears stated that he meant what he said that when a plan is brought forward, he would do as much as he can to talk to the citizens so that the next time the committee goes for a vote, they would have a better feel for the situation. He doesn't feel the majority don't want anything; and stated he thinks the community needs an entry sign.
- There was discussion regarding the Colony getting a sign put up and Pirate Harbor didn't. Mr. Taylor is meeting this afternoon to discuss this.
- Mr. Herl asked if a landscape plan is required in order to install irrigation. There will be a 6 inch pipe installed that will lead to the community if they want to tap into it.
- Mr. Taylor thanked Ms. Harrison for all the work she put into this project.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 12, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

Submitted by:

Kerry Rautert for Sandy Wright

Sandy Wright
Public Works Department

**CHARLOTTE COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
PIRATE HARBOR STREET & DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

MEETING DATE: Thursday, December 11, 2014

MEETING TIME: 10:00 A.M. – Public Works Conference Room

**INFORMATION SUPPLIED ON THIS FORM BECOMES
PUBLIC RECORD**

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